Special initiative for women in industries

1747. DR. K. MALAISAMY : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the wake of large scale employment of women in industries, trade and other organizations, is there any special initiative for the safety, security and welfare of women employed;

(b) are there not representations and pressures for this purpose with urgency particularly during nights; and

(c) whether the existing provisions of law and practice are adequate for this purpose or a review is needed, if so, the details of action taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Several law have been enacted to secure reasonable working conditions for women employed and to prevent their exploitation. These include the Factories Act, 1948, the Plantation Labour Act, 1951, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, the Inter-State Migrant Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, the Buildings and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 etc. which provide *inter-alia,* creche facilities for the benefit of women workers, time off for the feeding children during working hours, provision of maternity leave and separate toilets and washing facilities for female and male workers near the workplace as well as safe working conditions.

(b) The proposal to amend the Factories Act, 1948 allowing women to work during the night shift in the factories etc. provided the employer makes adequate arrangements for their safety and security, is under consideration in the Parliament.

(c) The existing provisions of laws and practices are adequate for this purpose.

Child labour in Gujarat

1748. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that every 18th child in the State of Gujarat is either working or searching for work instead of going to school;

(b) whether Government is also aware that 4.28 per cent of total workers are child labourers;

(c) whether Government is also aware that 36 per cent of children are working in farm lands and subjected to various kinds of abuses and violence;

(b) if so, what Government are doing to protect such children and also ensuring their education; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?